

Serial No.: 09/000,924

Therefore, the claims clearly recite features of the invention as would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. MPEP 2173.05(h), and in particular 2173.05(h).II, discuss that alternative expressions are permitted if definite. For example, "or" is definite. Similarly, "and/or" is definite.

Claim 23 was not a means-plus-function type claim. Claim 23 has been amended to improve form in reciting a processor (a CPU) programmed to perform the functions of the present invention. Amended claim 23 is not a means-plus-function type claim.

Claims 12, 18 and 22 are also amended, correcting typographical errors.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-18, 20, and 22-23 and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 

Mehdi Sheikerz

Registration No. 41,307

mshaikr@S-n-h.com

700 Eleventh Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 434-1500

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STAAS & HALSEY Mehdi Sheikerz

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Date: August 14, 2002

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Serial No.: 09/000,924

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-9, 12-13, 15-16, 18 and 20 are **AMENDED** as follows.

Recitation of all pending claims is provided for reference convenience.

1. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A data protection system protecting input data requiring authorization for use against unauthorized use during utilization of the input data, comprising:
 - means for storing input data, which can require authorization for use;
 - means for preparing data to create prepared data by linking the input data to[/], and/or embedding the input data in, the data using a compound document programming technique to generate information of the input data and to append the generated information to the prepared data;
 - means for utilizing the linked[/] and/or embedded input data by displaying the prepared data and the linked[/] and/or embedded input data;
 - judging means for judging, using the generated information, whether the linked[/] and/or embedded input data requires authorization for use; and
 - means for preventing storage of the linked[/] and/or embedded input data in another storage means to prevent unauthorized use of the linked[/] and/or embedded input data if the linked[/] and/or embedded input data is judged to require authorization for use.
2. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) The data protection system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
 - means for executing a cut and paste function with respect to the linked[/] and/or embedded input data in the prepared data; and
 - means for preventing the cut and paste function to prevent unauthorized use of the linked[/] and/or embedded input data when the linked[/] and/or embedded input data requires authorization for use.
3. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) The data protection system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said judging means includes means for judging whether the linked[/] and/or embedded input data in the prepared data is encrypted that can be decoded by a predetermined decoding key; and
 - means for determining whether the linked[/] and/or embedded input data requires

F

Serial No.: 09/000,924

authorization for use when the linked[/] and/or embedded input data is encrypted.

4. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A data protection system for protecting input data requiring authorization for use against unauthorized use when the input data is processed, comprising:

means for storing input data, which can require authorization for use;

means for preparing data to create prepared data by linking the input data to[/], and/or embedding the input data in, the data using a compound document programming technique;

judging means for judging whether the linked[/] and/or embedded input data requires authorization for use;

means for preventing storage of the linked[/] and/or embedded input data in another storage means during processing of the linked[/] and/or embedded input data in the prepared data when said linked[/] and/or embedded input data has been judged to require authorization for use; and

storage means for storing process information indicating what kind of processing has been performed on the linked[/] and/or embedded input data during the processing.

5. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The data protection system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said judging means includes means for judging whether the linked[/] and/or embedded input data is encrypted that can be decoded by a predetermined decoding key; and

means for determining whether the linked[/] and/or embedded input data requires authorization for use when the linked[/] and/or embedded input data is encrypted.

6. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) The data protection system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the process information is differential data indicating a difference between the linked[/] and/or embedded input data and the linked[/] and/or embedded input data after the processing.

7. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The data protection system as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:

means for displaying the linked[/] and/or embedded input data and the process information as added to the linked[/] and/or embedded input data.

8. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The data protection system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said storage means for storing process information includes means for adding information

F

Serial No.: 09/000,924

specifying the linked[/] and/or embedded input data to the process information; and
means for storing the added information.

9. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A data protection system for protecting input data requiring authorization for use against unauthorized use, comprising:

means for storing input data, which can require authorization for use;

means for permitting distribution of the input data to data processing means;

means for preparing data to create prepared data by linking the input data to[/embedded], and/or embedding the input data in, the data using a compound document programming technique;

judging means for judging that the linked[/] and/or embedded input data in the prepared data requires authorization for use;

means for preventing storage of the linked[/] and/or embedded input data in another storage means during processing of the linked[/] and/or embedded input data in the prepared data by the data processing means when said linked[/] and/or embedded input data has been judged to require authorization for use; and

storage means for storing process information indicating what kind of processing has been applied by said data processing means.

10. (as THREE TIMES AMENDED) The data protection system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

means for distributing the process information from said center as input data requiring authorization for use.

11. (as THREE TIMES AMENDED) The data protection system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

means for distributing data prepared by adding the process information to the input data from said center as input data requiring authorization for use.

12. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A data preparation device, comprising:

means for preparing data to create prepared data by linking input data to[/], and/or embedding the input data in, the data using a compound document programming technique, to generate information of the input data and to append the generated information to the prepared

F

Serial No.: 09/000,924

data, the input data requiring authorization for use and input from a center permitting use of the input data in exchange for a charge; and

means for utilizing the linked[/] and/or embedded input data by displaying the prepared data and the linked[/] and/or embedded input data.

13. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) The data preparation device as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:

judging means for judging whether there is a license for utilizing the utilized linked[/] and/or embedded input data in the prepared data; and

means for permitting the utilized linked[/] and/or embedded input data to be displayed on said display means when judged that there is the license.

15. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A data processing device, comprising:

means for permitting distribution to data processing means input data requiring authorization for use in exchange for a charge;

means for processing the input data, which requires authorization for use;

means for preparing data to create prepared data by linking the input data to[/], and/or embedding the input data in, the data using a compound document programming technique; and

storage means for storing process information indicating what kind of processing has been applied by said processing means to the linked[/] and/or embedded input data in the prepared data.

16. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) The data processing device as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

judging means for judging whether there is a license for utilizing the linked[/] and/or embedded input data in the prepared data; and

means for permitting the processing of the linked[/] and/or embedded input data when judged that there is the license.

18. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A data protection system for protecting input data requiring authorization for use against unauthorized use when the input data is processed, comprising:

an input unit inputting input data, which requires authorization for use;

F

Serial No.: 09/000,924

a processing unit in communication with the input unit and applying processing to the input data, which is linked to[/], and/or embedded in, prepared data according to a compound document programming technique; and

a forbidding unit preventing storage of the [the] linked[/] and/or embedded input data during the processing of the linked[/] and/or embedded input data.

20. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A data processing device, comprising:

a storage unit storing input data, which requires authorization for use;

a processing unit in communication with the storage unit and programmed to process the input data, which is linked to[/], and/or embedded in, prepared data according to a compound document programming technique, to produce differential data by comparing the processed linked[/] and/or embedded input data with the linked[/] and/or embedded input data in the prepared data, and to store the differential data in the storage unit.

22. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A system protecting input data requiring authorization for use against unauthorized use during utilization of the input data requiring authorization for use, comprising:

a storage unit storing input data, which can require authorization for use;

a preparation unit in communication with the storage unit and preparing data to create prepared data by linking the input data to[/], and/or embedding the input data in, the data using a compound document programming technique, to generate information of the input data and to append the generated information to the prepared data;

a data display processing unit in communication with the preparation unit and utilizing the prepared data by displaying the prepared data including displaying the linked[/] and/or embedded input data;

a judging unit in communication with the data display processing unit and using the generated information to judge whether the linked[/] and/or embedded input data requires authorization for use; and

a control unit in communication with the judging unit and preventing storage of the linked[/] and/or embedded input data in another storage unit to prevent unauthorized use of the linked[/] and/or embedded input data if the linked[/] and/or embedded input data is judged to require authorization for use.

F

Serial No.: 09/000,924

23. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer system protecting input data against unauthorized use during utilization of the input data, comprising:

[a processor programmed to create]a data creating unit creating a compound data with the input data using a compound document standard;[,]

[to display]a displaying unit displaying the created compound data, including the input data;[,]

[to prevent]a forbidding unit forbidding storage of the input data to prevent unauthorized use of the input data in the created compound data [upon determining]based upon a determination, using information of the input data, that the input data requires authorization for use.

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